

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please AMEND claims 13, as follows. For the Examiner's convenience, all claims currently pending have been reproduced below.

1-12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) A nozzle arrangement for guiding fluidizing gas to a fluidized bed gasifier or combustor, said nozzle arrangement comprising:

a nozzle piece attached to a nozzle tube or forming a structural unit with a nozzle tube, the nozzle piece comprising (i) a nozzle chamber, (ii) a horizontally extending nozzle channel in flow communication with the nozzle chamber, and (iii) a blow opening at the end of the nozzle piece, the blow opening directing fluidizing gas being blown through the nozzle chamber and the nozzle channel into the fluidized bed gasifier or combustor;

[[an]] a solid lid, free of cooling tubes, so as to be impervious ~~lid~~ to the fluidizing gas, for defining an upper limit of the nozzle chamber, the nozzle channel and the blow opening; and

a protecting cover, attached above and spaced apart from the lid, for minimizing cooling of the outer surface of the nozzle piece due to the fluidizing gas being blown through the nozzle piece into the fluidized bed gasifier or combustor.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously Presented) A nozzle arrangement in accordance with claim 13, wherein the protecting cover comprises a cover plate and ribs arranged at least to the periphery thereof.

16. (Previously Presented) A nozzle arrangement in accordance with claim 13, wherein the protecting cover is attached to the lid by means of ribs at least at the periphery of the protecting cover.

17. (Previously Presented) A nozzle arrangement in accordance with claim 13, further comprising heat insulation arranged between the lid and the protecting cover.

18. (Previously Presented) A nozzle arrangement in accordance with claim 13, wherein the protecting cover is attached to the lid at all sides, except for the one on the blow opening side of the nozzle piece.

19. (Previously Presented) A nozzle arrangement in accordance with claim 15, wherein the protecting cover is attached to the lid by ribs extending to the side surfaces of the lid.

20. (Previously Presented) A nozzle arrangement in accordance with claim 16, wherein the protecting cover is attached to the lid by ribs extending to the side surfaces of the lid.

21. (Previously Presented) A nozzle arrangement in accordance with claim 13, further comprising means arranged at the blow opening end of the nozzle channel for forming a rising gas flow at the front of the blow opening.

22. (Previously Presented) A nozzle arrangement in accordance with claim 13, further comprising a smooth bump (i) located on the upper surface of the nozzle channel, (ii) extending substantially throughout the whole width thereof, and (iii) arranged at the blow opening end of the nozzle channel for forming a rising gas flow in the front of the blow opening.

23. (Previously Presented) A nozzle arrangement in accordance with claim 13, wherein the protecting cover is made of the same material as that of the lid.

24. (Previously Presented) A nozzle arrangement in accordance with claim 13, wherein the protecting cover is attached by welding to the lid or to the sides of the lid.

25. (Previously Presented) A nozzle arrangement in accordance with claim 13, wherein the protecting cover is ceramic.